

Progress report on Putaruru Schools NLC

Progress to date

Our NLC is focussed on community engagement. Our critical questions are around how we build meaningful partnerships with our parents/whanau/community; how we grow parent confidence in us; how we improve the connectedness between school-home-community; and how we acknowledge and affirm the role that parents/whanau/ community all play in raising our students.

We have spent time developing a more reflective side to the cluster – sharing and pooling ideas and resources. I have also spent time planning a support programme with Faye Lewis around Technology – and using Technology to develop community engagement and partnering with parents. We have organised specific sessions for up-skilling teachers, as well as planning two events (such as an Inventors' Fair and a bicycle Derby) which will happen in Terms 2 and 3 this year.

Changes

Getting a team that is not too busy: Currently, we have mostly principals (and a few DPs) involved in the Cluster. This year, we want to target a representative from each school that is not necessarily part of the leadership. The aim here is to ensure that cluster members have the time and energy to develop the cluster goals within their schools. Principals are very busy people!

Stronger focus on Technology: Simply focusing on raising engagement within our community was not enough. We really needed a vehicle for change. By using Technology, we have a more concrete way of getting parents involved, inviting parent and community involvement and participation, something specific to organise that can involve parents, and it provides a non-threatening way of drawing parents into partnerships with schools – in particular, fathers!

[So, for example, one aim is to organise an "Inventors' Show". Schools will spend a term working on an invention – which will involve partnering with parents/whanau. There will then be an opportunity for the schools to showcase their inventions at an Inventors' Fair. Parents will be invited. The community will be asked to provide judges, etc.]

Steve Abernethy
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